

Times Dispatch

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 1913.

ARCHITECTS PLAN RICHMOND.

The idea of having the Richmond Architects' Association hold an exhibit next May of the work done by local designers in building modern Richmond is full of suggestion. It will be good for the architects to have people get a conception of the important share they have taken in helping Richmond to grow. It will be good for the city to view what has been done, and from this to see what may be done in the future. Members of the association have drawn plans for buildings erected in the last year to the value of over \$1,000,000. They have exerted a great influence on the beauty, safety, comfort and cost of building. It will be an instructive process to group the ideas they followed in the concrete form of photographs and drawings, and see exactly what the general architectural ideals of the community represent. The city can judge of how its future growth can be planned for the best results, and the architects can see more clearly how they can make their individual works conform to a general ideal of beauty arising from variety in unity.

Even more important than the proposed exhibition, however, is the movement to co-operate with the Chamber of Commerce and other organizations for civic improvement. It is the duty of the architects to help plan Richmond. They should encourage property owners and builders to prosecute improvements on harmonious lines. Richmond has the natural advantages to become one of the most beautiful of modern cities. It is practically rebuilt. It is the traditional inheritor of an ideal of construction, the southern Colonial, that for grace, dignity and beauty cannot be excelled. Yet some of the queer, hybrid structures piled off on unsuspecting home-makers' heads suggest a sad falling off from this ideal. It devolves upon the esthetic and civic consciences of our architects to make modern Richmond as beautiful and distinguished as was old Richmond.

In a larger way the architects should present at this meeting a plan for the physical expansion of the city. Other municipalities are looking ahead ten or twenty years to guide their present outlines. They see visions of parks and boulevards and public buildings molded into a great framework of spacious vistas and graceful lines. Can't our builders show their own community what it may do to be beautiful?

CONFIDENCE IN WILSON.

The American Banker may be taken as reflecting accurately as any publication in the country the confidence of the business and financial interests of the nation in President-Elect Wilson, and as voicing reliably what those interests expect of him. The Banker hails with satisfaction the definite announcement that Mr. Wilson will call an extra session of Congress for March 15 to revise the tariff downward, seeing therein, as it does, recognition by Mr. Wilson that whatever is to be done should be done quickly. It anticipates that the present Ways and Means Committee of the House will have the new schedules ready by the middle of March, so that they can be taken up for immediate discussion and action, and that in time will be lost "treasuring the passage of the administration's tariff bill."

The Banker goes on to say that this result is all the more important because the tariff is only one of the two things which demand immediate attention. The tariff of tariff revision downward, it resumes, is currency reform, and on this point the new President is not less emphatic than he is on the other. Therefore, although all signs fall in dry weather, it is extremely improbable, it thinks, that Congress will adjourn in the summer without first formulating a currency bill which will at least be partially satisfactory.

Mr. Wilson, the Banker continues, will come into office with a prestige and an influence second to no other national executive since the War Between the States and for this reason, it argues, a currency measure which has the previous sanction of the administration, and which embodies the dominant opinion of the majority of both houses, may be readily enacted into law. While the Banker concludes that it would be a remarkable record if within three or four months from the date of his inauguration Mr. Wilson should have to his credit the double achievement of effecting tariff reform downward and banking and currency reform, and although admitting that this sequel may be almost too much to hope for, yet it does not hesitate to express the opinion that "the prospect of its attainment grows steadily brighter as March approaches."

Even admitting that the double achievement within the time indicated is too much to hope for, the Banker's article is most instructive and significant, not only as demonstrating the

confidence and the expectation referred to, but as showing the preparedness in financial and business circles to receive the prospective tariff and banking and currency reforms without disturbance. Considering the source, it discloses a sentiment, a situation and conditions that utterly annihilate the "prosperity" arguments of the tariff standstillers and the reactionaries, and the banking and currency reform tinkers. It betokens that the country, in its confidence that the incoming administration will go straight to the mark and eliminate all suspense, has discounted the effect of any and all tariff and currency legislation.

FIND OUT WHAT THE PEOPLE WANT.

How can a legislator ascertain what laws his constituency desires passed or not passed? No formal method exists in Virginia whereby the lawmaker can solve that problem, unless he was elected upon specific issues. Letters from those whom he is chosen to represent may illuminate his path; individual conversations may guide him; resolutions of organizations may inform him somewhat, but there is no system through which he is enlightened as to what legislation the bulk of his constituency would have him advocate.

Certain county legislative delegations to the General Assembly of South Carolina have adopted a formal method which could be followed with good results in Virginia. Each delegation, shortly before the convening of the Legislature, appoints certain times and places when and where the legislators-elect will as a body meet to hear the sentiment and ascertain the desires as to legislation of the people whom they represent. At such sessions any citizen has the right to appear, accompanied by as many other citizens as he may wish, and advocate or antagonize any proposed measure to be introduced in the law-making body. County and town officers may also be heard as to the needs of the county and its officers. Charitable organizations may thus have an opportunity to indicate their support of measures in the interest of social service. Citizens desiring the abolition of abuses can voice their desires. In such a way the legislators come into touch with that part of their constituency actively interested in proposed measures and feel the pulse of the people. On the other hand, the people can in this way call the attention of their legislative representatives to their interest in bills and enactments thereafter that as to such bills they felt their constituency uninterested.

This method, of course, depends upon public interest. Without popular use it is valueless. It has been tried in South Carolina with a great degree of success. In many counties here it could be employed profitably to the State. It does not require legal sanction, but simply the agreement of the legislators to meet and hear their constituents. In many counties and in many municipalities in the old Dominion few if any issues are discussed in the legislative campaigns, and many lawmakers are elected without having stood upon any platform. The people should have an opportunity to tell their legislative representatives what their will is as to legislation.

WISES WISDOM.

Eight hundred and thirty thousand dollars for good roads in a little more than two years! That is Wise County's answer to the stock question of the doubter, "Do good roads pay?" Not content with the expenditure of almost three-quarters of a million voted in 1910, the several magisterial districts of Wise are to vote separately upon the question of making large additional outlays, and Richmond District has started the ball rolling by voting a bond issue of \$120,000 to complete the good road system within its limits. The overwhelming sentiment in the district for improved highways is indicated in the vote, for, 650, against, 24.

The original sum voted by the county in 1910 was believed at the time to be sufficient to establish a good system of macadamized highways throughout the county, but time has upset the estimate. Approximately 105 miles of road was immediately laid out and grading begun, but it soon became evident that the amount, though very large, would suffice to do little more than the grading alone. It was determined to complete the grading in accordance with the plan and to expend the remainder of the money in macadamizing, distributing the work in the various parts of the county so that each section would have the benefit of its due share of the whole amount. Enough of the original fund was left to macadamize twenty or twenty-five miles of road.

What has been achieved in Wise, however incomplete, has awakened its people to the benefits and blessings that improved highways never fail to confer. Public sentiment in Wise is so thoroughly in favor of better roads that the completion of the system is a foregone conclusion. The practically unanimous vote in favor of a bond issue by Richmond District last week means that other districts will take similar action and, when they do, Wise will have expended more than \$1,000,000 on improved roads, and will have secured the best system of macadamized highways in the Commonwealth.

Wise's splendid example should inspire the other counties of the Old Dominion with all the confidence and energy necessary to begin the construction of county systems of improved highways.

ILLUMINATION ON GAS.

It all means get the gas convention in this city in the country needs a little light on the gas question, it is Rich-

mond. Let Mr. Dabney and the Chamber of Commerce offer almost anything to bring the 600 or 700 members of the American Gas Institute here next October to talk about gas, and how it should be made, and what it should cost, and give their demonstrations of the best gas-making machines and processes. We need that convention more than the convention needs us.

The business of making and selling gas is not so vaguely vaporous as local conditions would have us believe. It is possible to combine business sense and scientific information to put gas on a practical basis. Right now this community doesn't know whether it is producing gas at a profit or at a loss. It doesn't know whether the gas consumers are paying an excess tax to the city, or whether the city is making presents to the gas consumers by rebuilding the lines and equipment out of general funds. About all the people really know is that the gas they get is poor. In some sections it is faint and uncertain; in others it comes with such a rush as to almost blow itself out and run the meter round at a merry rate. The Council, the Board, the accountant and the superintendent seem to be in the dark. Bring on the 700 experts and give us light.

A DANGEROUS PROPOSAL.

Representative Bathrick of Ohio, would have the Federal government embark in the business of lending money to farmers. A bill which he introduced in Congress last Saturday provides for the creation of a national Bureau of Farm Loans under the auspices of which United States 4 per cent bonds would be issued to secure funds to lend to farmers at 1-2 per cent on first mortgages on their lands.

Aside from the impropriety of the Federal or State governments entering into the business of furnishing agricultural credit, such a proposal is impracticable. It is subject to the same dangers which resulted in the destruction of the first and second banks of the United States, and which have been set forth by the opponents of the recent tendency towards unnecessary centralization in our national banking system. Mr. Bathrick's idea, in other words, is politically impossible. No fair method of ascertaining land values or in apportioning loans can be devised. However wisely and conservatively the plan might be administered, the suspicion would always be present that it was under political influence. Undoubtedly, different localities would bring all the political pressure they could command to bear upon a Bureau of Farm Loans in the ceaseless competition to secure credit, and the tendency would be to use such a bureau for political profit in the same way that public buildings, river and harbor improvements, pensions, post-offices, and other governmental privileges and offices are now exploited. The advocates of the extension of agricultural credit facilities should hold fast to the idea of co-operation among farmers under the supervision and control of the State governments.

RESPONSIVE PUBLIC SERVICE.

The Times-Dispatch most heartily congratulates the Virginia Railway and Power Company for the quick and thorough way it met complaints about ventilation and cleanliness in its street cars. When the complaints reached the executive officers, they were taken up as the most immediate and pressing business of the company. This they truly were, as the comfort and convenience of the average citizen is the prime business of any public service corporation. There was no evasion or delay or red tape. The evils were remedied, and the health office, the police and the newspapers invited to inspect the service and make suggestions. Instead of avoiding publicity, the officials invited publicity. Instead of treating the public as the last interest to be regarded, they treated the public as the first. This is the attitude of all enlightened service companies. Their income depends on the people. To generate in the public mind both confidence and good will is as important as paying dividends. It means dividends.

To keep this from mere praise, we suggest that a better rush hour service is not impossible. The frank explanation of why there is crowding in the evening is commendable. But is it quite complete? We know that the rush hour problem is a hard one. No large city in the country meets it quite satisfactorily. It is a question of supplying cars, operatives and current for a brief time, although they are not needed during the rest of the twenty-four hours. This costs money. Hence at bottom the rush hour problem is merely whether the company will spend the money. If it does, there is no crowding.

Finally, the responsiveness of the company must meet with co-operation from the traveling public. It is your duty to keep the cars as clean as possible, to obey the antisplashing ordinance and help enforce it, to wear enough clothes to ride in a well-ventilated car without crumbling at draughts, and, best of all, to move up in front and prevent congestion in the rear part of the car. This is the most damnable habit of modern society. It seems to be a survival of the huddling instinct of our animal ancestors. When there is room in front, and a door to get off by, see to it that you do your share of co-operation by moving up in front!

These probes are getting too realistic when they begin probing W. Rockefeller's throat to see whether he is really sick.

Is this frost that killed the California oranges the same one that gets the Georgia peach crop every spring?

On the Spur of the Moment.

By Roy K. Moulton.

Caught on the Fly.
New Orleans has established the commission form of government. Up to this time the omission form of government has been in vogue there.

A Massachusetts man who escaped from prison seven years ago has given himself up. The high cost of living was evidently too much for him.

A New York woman shot at a spring chicken and hit her mother-in-law, but the latter doubtless felt complimented over the mistake.

Scientists say an oyster's life is twelve years, but it does seem as though some of them must last much longer than that when they loiter around the church social.

W. J. Bryan has made enough to build a \$100,000 home in Texas, and still some people have the hardihood to say the talk is cheap.

A New York actor whipped a barber who talked too much. The actors are the only ones who are allowed to do that.

Those proposed half-cent coins will come in handy when some close-fisted men want to give their wives a weekly allowance.

A New York court has patched up a girl's broken heart for \$10,000. Those operations are always the most expensive kind.

Hints for the New President.
Realizing that President Wilson is not going to have very much to do when he grasps the helm of the ship of state, we have taken the liberty of compiling the suggestions that have been made by our myriad readers for his guidance. Since he was elected this Pillar of Uplift and Column of Higher Thought has been besieged with suggestions as to legislation needed. Some of them follow.

Make it a crime punishable by fine and imprisonment to smoke cigarettes in a telephone booth.

Place a prohibitive tariff on imported titles.

Prohibit the transportation of grape fruit from one State to another.

Make the manufacture of prickly underwear a misdemeanor.

Pass a law providing that every seat in every theatre shall be in the fifth row on the left.

Ten years and \$100 fine for every man who has his photograph taken with his head resting on his hand.

Prohibit the audible chewing of gum during matinees.

Life imprisonment for a man who fails to shovel the snow off his sidewalk.

Make it a misdemeanor to wear red neckties and yellow shoes at the same time.

And stabbed himself in the solar plex.

A School for Poets.
Our Correspondence School is prepared to furnish instruction in obligatory poetry writing and will guarantee any pupil enough in three lessons to enable him to secure a good position with some newspaper or grant its monument concern. We agree to teach you to rhyme "heaven" with "given" in two lessons, and by the time you have finished the third lesson you will be able to find a rhyme for "Wilson and Marshall." Young man, what do you find in your pay envelope? All our graduates are in high salaries positions—if they have been able to get them. There is money in poetry writing. There must be money in it, because nobody ever got any out of it.

Old Uncle Pete has cashed in his checks.

His whiskers froze to a sharp apex.

He slipped and fell.

With a terrified yell.

And staked himself in the solar plex.

There was an old maid who was never afraid.

To knock all her friends with a will.

The gossip she made was her whole stock in trade.

It was all gossit that came to her mill.

She couldn't hold one day and contracted a pain.

That stopped her from knocking on this earth again.

She knocked at the gate of St. Peter's in vain.

And she's probably knocking there still.

There was a young woman named Len.

Who wore a shirtwaist peek-a-boo.

She went out in the blizzard.

Caught cold in her gizzard.

Funeral Wednesday at two.

Broke the Record.
Paid her fare from far-off Sweden.

Met her at the railroad train.

She was what we had been needing.

And had sought for long in vain.

Was not very stylish looking.

And the English didn't know.

She was ignorant of cookin'.

And did not pretend to sew.

For her wages she got double.

What we could afford to pay.

Then we bade farewell to trouble.

And we said, "This one will stay."

Let her eat with us at dinner.

Let her have the guest room, too.

And we'd thought we'd picked a winner.

Who'd be constant tried and true.

But one day our next door neighbor

Abe Martin

Nothing like look as simple as the fellow that makes a whole state get up at the the-arc-arc-arc takes his seat.

Mr. Lauret Mader, a pifelong

and Mader died yesterday at the age of twenty-two.

MR. LUGUBRIOUS BLUE AND MR. SMILEY GLADD DISCUSS THE PROSPECT OF A COAL FAMINE.

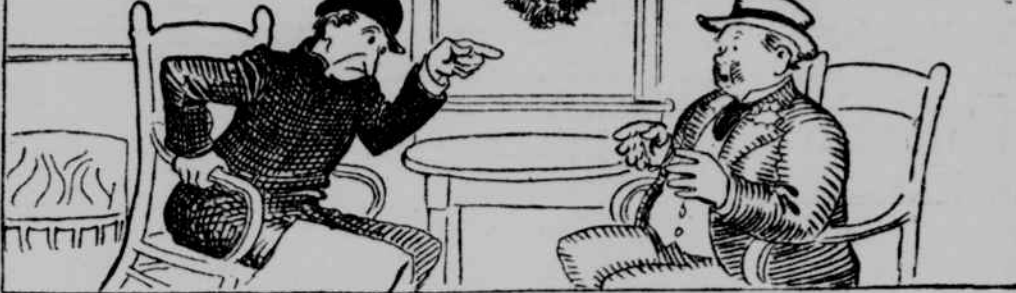
By John T. McCutcheon.

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Mr. Blue—"If we have a coal famine, it will be simply terrible."

Mr. Gladd—"O, I don't look for a very serious shortage."



Mr. Blue—"Mark my words, there will be dreadful suffering throughout the land."

Mr. Gladd—"Thank goodness, the coal hasn't given out yet."



Mr. Blue—"No, but it will. In a month we'll all have pneumonia, the children will be freezing, and the streets will be choked with funerals."

Mr. Gladd—"O, I guess we'll manage some way to keep from freezing."



Mr. Gladd—"Has your own coal given out yet?"

Mr. Blue—"No, but it makes me sad to think of the prospect of it."

Talked to her by making signs.
And she changed her field of labor.
With our wash still on the lines
He had offered her a dollar.
More in "income," so to speak.
And we didn't dare to "holier."
For we'd kept her most a week.

A Pythian Hero

On March 11 last a Pythian hero met death unflinchingly and died in the full performance of his duty, and while the newspapers of the land gave the full particulars, lauded his life, and praised his heroism, no Pythian publication that has come to the attention of the writer has called attention to his knightly act and exemplification of the highest teachings of our order.

On that date the whole country was shocked by the assassination of Judge Thornton L. Massie, of Pulaski, Va., a Knight of Pythias and a member of Pulaski Lodge, No. 92, of Virginia, who was shot while performing his duty at Hillsville, Va., and the most of the officers of his court killed or maimed by a lawless mountain gang, who at his hands were being halted by the stern arm of the law.

The feudists and lawless mountaineers of the South have long been a menace to civilization, a source of much concern, and at the cost of many lives State and national authorities have long endeavored to quell them, but their desperate character made it difficult to convict them, and the Government of Virginia, knowing the unserving sense of justice and integrity of its former classmate, Thornton L. Massie, then a practicing lawyer of Pulaski, Va., asked him to accept the judgeship of a mountain district, in order that law should reign instead of lawlessness.

Judge Massie accepted, although he was giving up a practice of \$5,000 per year for a salary of \$2,500 per annum and meagre travelling expenses, but he did so in an attempt to curb the lawlessness of the mountaineers and make the mountain region as safe and law-abiding as any portion of fair Virginia. Judge Massie undertook this stupendous task from a full concert on and sense of duty, as taught by our Pythian Order, which should be proud of the inspiration it gave him and pay just tribute to his memory. His sacrifice was the greater that he had a happy home, with a charming wife to make him a home, a lovely daughter, just on the threshold of womanhood, and two young sons, who were to be equipped for the battle of life.

Before the fatal day Judge Massie had been warned of threats against him and his officers if the members of the gang on trial were found guilty, and advised to go armed, but his reply was worthy of the true Pythian knight that he was: "Only the law is supreme, and it must be unafraid; no lawlessness can make it afraid. No man would be fit to sit on the bench of Virginia or any other State in this land who carried a deadly weapon to the task of administering justice. When a judge must ascend the bench with his hand gripping a pistol, the day of law is past. Civilization is a failure." Thus, as was said by another, "Armed only with his faith in the law, he walked into the jaws of death like

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Old Song.
Please tell me who was the author of the old song, "Why don't the men propose, mama?"
R. R. M.
Thomas H. Bayly.

Old Songs Wanted.
Can you induce Judge William H. Turpin to give the words to the old songs, "Snow Bird on the Ash Bank," "Old Dan Tucker," "Old Aunt Kate the Garden Gate," and the chant, "Fare You Well, Sorry for to Leave You?"
TIDEWATER.

We shall be very pleased to have them.

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